Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-22 (Cancelled)

23. (New) A device for evacuating people from a building, the device comprising:

a container adapted to be supported on an upper level of the building, the container including a plateau that can be extended from the building;

a tube housed in a folded position in the container when in a non-functional position, wherein the tube can be moved from the non-functional position to a functional position to form a rescue channel leading from the upper level of the building to ground level; and

a tensioning rope for determining the arrangement of the tube in the functional position,

wherein the tube is folded together when in the non-functional position, and the tube extends in an essentially vertical manner with respect to a wall of the building when deployed to the functional position,

wherein the tube is equipped with a number of transversal rings spaced from each other in a longitudinal direction of the tube, and each of the transversal rings is provided with at least one opening for permitting passage of the tensioning rope,

wherein each transversal ring is provided with an annular air cushion which is inflatable in the manner of an airbag when the tube is moved to the functional position, and the air cushions function to provide for safe conveyance of people through the rescue channel to the ground level by braking transfer of the people through the rescue channel, and

wherein, in the functional position of the tube, the plateau is extended, and the tensioning

rope is ripped out of a groove provided in the building wall and brought into an approximately vertical position such that the tensioning rope is stretched between a fixed point in the container and a fixed point at the ground level.

24. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the tube can be folded together or extended in the manner of a concertina.

25. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the tube, when folded in the non-functional position, is disposed on an upper surface of the plateau.

26. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the plateau includes a base opening through which the tube can unfold automatically towards the ground when the plateau is extended.

27. (New) The device according to claim 26, wherein the tube is connected at one end with an entrance part forming an entry opening, and when the plateau is extended, the entrance part is supported by the plateau and is disposed in a position at which the entry opening is disposed coaxially with respect to the base opening.

28. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein, in the functional position, an arched exit part is attached to a lower end of the tube.

29. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the tube is made of a flame-resistant material.

30. (New) The device according to claim 23, wherein the tube is made of a transparent material, or the tube includes a plurality of windows.

31. (New) The device according to claim 26, wherein the plateau includes a flap for closing the base opening in the non-functional position and automatically opening the base opening when the plateau is extended from the container.

32. (New) The device according to claim 27, wherein the entry opening of the tube has a central axis which is in a horizontal orientation when the tube is in the non-functional position and in a vertical orientation when the tube is in the functional position.

33. (New) The device according to claim 23, further comprising a tensioning and transport device supported on the upper surface of the plateau, the tensioning and transport device including two wheels engaged with a transport chain, wherein the transport chain cooperates with the transversal rings of the tube.